

ABSTRACT

A method for inhibiting apoptosis of a cell expressing a death receptor of the TNFR family is disclosed. The method involves treating the cell with a Receptor Internalization and Degradation (RID) protein complex containing RID α (10.4K) and RID β (14.5K) proteins encoded by the E3 region of adenovirus. The cell can be treated by administering to the cell a polynucleotide expressing the RID complex or by administering to the cell a composition containing the RID complex. Compositions containing a RID complex are also disclosed. The compositions and method are useful in the treatment of cancer, degenerative and immune disorders, as well as in promoting survival of tissue transplants. An adenovirus vector for delivering the RID complex to cells is also disclosed.

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